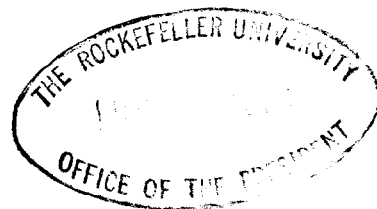




association of american medical colleges

June 30, 1978



Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
66th Street & York Avenue
New York City, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

During a telephone conversation earlier today with Ted Cooper, we discussed some of the problems besetting the Study Section system at NIH. Ted mentioned that the two of you had recently compared notes on the quality of the NIH grant review.

Ted thought you might be interested in receiving a copy of the enclosed document which we prepared earlier this year, once we had fully informed ourselves as to the nature and dimensions of this problem. Of particular concern to us for some time has been the overload on this system and the consequences with respect to quality of review and its impact on the vigor and integrity of the nation's biomedical research enterprise. We have been working with several congressional staff members on various aspects of this problem. Unfortunately, its complexities, together with the split in jurisdictions in the Congress, make this a particularly difficult problem to tackle. Nonetheless, we are somewhat heartened by sympathetic reactions on the part of several influential people on the Hill.

We would be grateful for any comments or suggestions you might have about this document or as to how we might be more effective in attempting to correct the difficulties. With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

John F. Sherman, Ph.D.
Vice President

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Morgan